

AIDS

Ecumenical Prayer Service

*Monday, November 9, 1987
7:30 p.m.*

*Trinity Memorial Church
22nd and Spruce Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103*



Death will be no easy parting. So much to say goodbye to. So many friends. So many objects. So much unfinished business. So many unfinished dreams. We shall have grieving to do.

But then, in some way that remains mysterious to us, you and I shall be again, or continue to be, or be transformed into new being, or be united with the source of Being: the transmutation defies description. But I am persuaded by all my intuitive power of knowing, affirmed by the wonders revealed by modern scientific inquire, that at death, life is finished but not over.

John Fortunato
AIDS: The spiritual Dilemma

AIDS is an acronym which stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

It is a progressively degenerative disease caused by a virus known in the United States as HTLV-3. It attacks the body's immune system, the bio-chemical network that fights off those foreign agents which populate our environment and get into our bodies routinely. HTLV-3 over time, destroys thymic lymphocytes that control the immune system. This leaves the body defenseless. With no way to fight back, the body cannot prevent diseases from having a heyday.

The Church is in darkness. All seated. The Bishop and Liturgical Leaders enter.

Solo Song: "No Body Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

REFRAIN: Nobody knows the trouble I've seen,
 Nobody knows but Jesus,
 Nobody knows the trouble I've seen,
 Glory, hallelujah.

1. Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, Oh, yes, Lord, Sometimes I'm almost to the ground, Oh, yes, Lord.	2. Although you see me going 'long so, Oh, yes, Lord, I have my troubles here below, Oh, yes, Lord
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THE BISHOP LIGHTS A CANDLE AND SAYS:

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you, Dear God,
the night is as bright as the day,
darkness and light to you are alike. (PS. 139: 10-11)

PART I: ACKNOWLEDGING OUR COMMON NEED

Hymn 666 (stand) Out of the Depths I call St. Bride

1. Out of the depths I call, to God I send my cry; God, hear my supplicating voice and graciously reply.	3. My longing eyes look out for your enlivening ray, more duly than the morning watch to spy the dawning day.
2. My soul with patience waits for you the living God, my hopes are on your promise built, your never-failing word.	4. Let Israel trust in God; no bounds God's mercy knows; the plenteous source and spring from whence redemption ever flows.

READING: (sit) Matthew 27:39-50 (The New English Bible)

"The passers-by hurled abuse at him: they wagged their heads and cried, 'You would pull the temple down, would you, and build it in three days? Come down from the cross and save yourself, if you are indeed the Son of God.' So too the chief priests with the lawyers and elders mocked him: 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he cannot save himself. King of Israel, indeed! Let him come down now from the cross, and then we will believe him. Did he trust in God? Let God rescue him, if he wants him — for he said he was God's Son.' Even the bandits who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

"From midday a darkness fell over the whole land, which lasted until three in the afternoon; and about three Jesus cried aloud, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?', which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Some of the bystanders, on hearing this, said, 'He is calling Elijah.' One of them ran at once and fetched a sponge, which he soaked in sour wine, and held it to his lips on the end of a cane. But the others said, 'Let us see if Elijah will come to save him.'"

REFLECTION: (sit) ATLANTA: AUGUST 10, 1987 Racial minorities are not getting adequate counselling on how to protect themselves from AIDS, a weekend conference was told. Hispanic participants adopted a resolution saying that there had been a "lack of funding directed to research, education and health delivery services" in Hispanic communities. Blacks are 12 percent of the population, but claim more than 25 percent of the nation's AIDS cases. Latinos, numbering 7 percent of the population, compose 14 percent of AIDS cases.

ARCADIA, FLORIDA: AUGUST 30, 1987 A mother whose three sons have been exposed to the AIDS virus said yesterday that the boys would be withdrawn from school and that the family would leave DeSoto County after a suspicious fire gutted their home. "I will not go back. The kids are not going back to school there because next time we may not be so lucky, and my kids cannot be replaced. I never thought it would go this far."

NEWSWEEK: AUGUST 1987 A sizable majority are male homosexuals or drug users, the groups at ground zero of the devastation; they make up 90 percent of the known casualties of AIDS... the death of a generation of gay men. Life cut short too soon; each represents a death in the American family. The process of their death can be ugly, a descent into pain, disability and dementia. Some have prayed for the end, some tried to speed it up. Some died frightened, some with great gallantry. Some were surrounded by loved ones at the end. Some were abandoned: the lepers of our time. They are ours — our kin, our colleagues, our lovers, our neighbors and friends. Our habit is optimism; we are unaccustomed to an epidemic that resists the magic of our medicines, and we have too often held ourselves apart from its sufferers.

PSALM 22:1-11 (sit)

(Congregation reads starred verses)

- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me and are so far from saving me, from heeding my groans?
- * O my God, I cry in the day-time but you do not answer, in the night I cry but get no respite.
- And yet you are enthroned in holiness, you are God whose praises Israel sings.
- * In you our leaders put their trust; they trusted, and you rescued them.
- To you they cried and were delivered; in you they cried and were delivered; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- * But I am a worm, not a person, abused by all, scorned by the people.
- All who see me jeer at me, make mouths at me and wag their heads:
- * 'He threw himself on God for rescue; let God deliver him, for he holds God dear!'
- But you are God who drew me from the womb, who laid me at my mother's breast.
- * Upon you I was cast at birth; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and I have no helper."

PRAYER: (stand)

Litany of Awareness in the Devastation of AIDS

O God of all Knowing, we pray that you will assist us to a greater awareness of all the dimensions of the AIDS tragedy and that you will give us the strength,

the courage, and the compassion to respond in meaningful ways.

People: O God of Knowing, hear our prayer.

O God of all Compassion, do not ever let us forget that the face of AIDS is the face of our friend, our neighbor, our fellow worker; the face of AIDS is our own face.

People: O God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

O God of Love, help us to be aware of the deep suffering of persons with AIDS, of the grief, anguish, pain, and fear that daily confront both them and their families, friends and life mates.

People: O God of Love, hear our prayer.

O God of Life, help us not to turn away from a keen sense of the terrible consequences of this disease: the lost promise of the lives it cuts short; the devastating effect of AIDS on the countries of the Emerging World where resources for medical help and education are profoundly inadequate; the threat of AIDS to the very structures of civilization on the planet.

People: O God a Life, hear our prayer.

O God of all Mercy, give us a deep sensitivity to the sense of rejection, of fear, guilt and death that surrounds the world of people with AIDS.

People: O God of Mercy. hear our Prayer.

O God of all kindness, deliver us from the presumption that AIDS is the special affliction of any particular group. Make us aware that it is a disease which afflicts gay and straight, black, brown, white, and all races, young and old, male and female. Finally give us a strong sense of our own responsibility: when AIDS touches one of us, it touches us all.

People: Hear us, dear God, and have mercy upon us. Amen.

PART II: HEALING OUR COMMON WOUNDS

Hymn 168: (stand) O Sacred Head Sore Wounded Herzlich tut mich verlangen

1. O Sacred head, sore wounded,
defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
with mocking crown of thorn:
what sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor
the hosts of heaven adore!

5. My days are few, O fail not,
with thine immortal power,
to hold me that I quail not
in death's most fearful hour;
that I may fight befriended,
and see in my last strife
to me thine arms extended
upon the cross of life.

READING: (sit) Romans 12:1-21

"Therefore, my brothers, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to him: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for his acceptance, the worship offered by mind and heart. Adapt yourselves no longer to the pattern of this present world, but let your minds be remade

and your whole nature thus transformed. Then you will be able to discern the will of God, and to know what is good, acceptable and perfect.

"In virtue of the Gift that God in his Grace has given me I say to everyone among you: do not be conceited or think too highly of yourself; but think your way to a sober estimate on the measure of faith that God has dealt to each of you. For just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so all of us, united with Christ, form one body, serving individually as limbs and organs to one another.

"The gifts we possess differ as they are allotted to us by God's grace, and must be exercised accordingly: the gift of inspired utterance, for example, in proportion to a man's faith; or the gift of administration, in administration. A teacher should employ his gift in teaching, and one who has the gift of stirring speech should use it to stir his hearers. If you give to charity, give with all your heart; if you are a leader, exert yourself to lead; if you are helping others in distress, do it cheerfully.

"Love in all sincerity, loathing evil and clinging to the good. Let love for our brotherhood breed warmth of mutual affection. Give pride of place to one another in esteem.

"With unflagging energy, in ardor of spirit, serve the Lord.

"Let hope keep you joyful; in trouble stand firm; persist in prayer.

"Contribute to the needs of God's people, and practice hospitality.

"Call down blessings on your persecutors— blessings, not curses.

"With the joyful be joyful, and mourn with the mourners.

"Care as much about each other as about yourselves. Do not be haughty, but go about with humble folk. Do not keep thinking how wise you are.

"Never pay back evil for evil. Let your aims be such as all men count honorable. If possible, so far as it lies with you, live at peace with all men. My dear friends, do not seek revenge, but leave a place for divine retribution; for there is a text which reads, 'Justice is mine, says the Lord, I will repay.' But there is another text: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; by doing this you will heap live coals on his head.' Do not let evil conquer you, but use good to defeat evil."

SERMON: (sit) The Rev. Paul M. Washington

PRAYER: (stand) Litany of Healing

Litanist: God, Creator of all living things, your desire for us is wholeness.

People: We seek your wholeness.

Litanist: God, Lover of all humanity, in you we live and move and have our being.

People: We seek your love.

Litanist: God, Revealer of all mystery, you honor our bodies with your presence even in disease and death.

People: We seek you.

Litanist: Gracious Healer, grant wholeness, love and life to all who are sick and disabled with opportunistic diseases through AIDS.

People: Hear us God of life.

Litanist: Let us name before God, and one another those for whom we

offer our prayers.

(Congregation responds with names)

A period of silence follows.

Litanist: Beloved Healer, grant wholeness, love and life to all who have died through this disease, and to those who are bereaved.

People: Hear us God of life.

Litanist: Lets name before God and one another those who have died.

(Congregation responds with names)

A period of silence follows.

Litanist: Ever present God,

People: Heal us and make us whole.

Litanist: God of life,

People: Heal us and make us whole.

LAYING ON OF HANDS:

This experience will be a communal expression for healing. We will be seeking healing for those for whom we have prayed, and for ourselves. We ask each person to reach out and hold hands or touch the shoulder of the person(s) next to you.

In silence hold in your imagination the people for whom you seek healing and wholeness.

Leader: "I lay my hands on you for your healing, in the name of God."
(Repeat in phrases after Leader.)

THE PEACE

(Share the peace around the gathered community.)

Bishop: The Peace of God be always with you. People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PART III: CELEBRATING OUR COMMON HOPE

Hymn 470 (stand) There is a Wideness in God's Mercy

Beecher

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.

2. There is no place where earth's
sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's
failings
have such kindly judgement given.
There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,
we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

READING: (sit) Romans 8:31-39

"With all this in mind, what are we to say? If God is on our side, who is against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all; and with this gift how can he fail to lavish upon us all he has to give? Who will be the accuser of God's chosen ones? It is God who pronounces acquittal; then who can condemn? It is Christ — Christ who died, and, more than that, was raised from the dead — who is at God's right hand, and indeed pleads our cause. Then what can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or hardship? Can persecution, hunger, nakedness, peril, or the sword? 'We are being done to death for thy sake all the day long,' as Scripture says; 'we have been treated like sheep for slaughter' — and yet in spite of all, overwhelming victory is ours through him who loved us. For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths — nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

REFLECTION: (sit) RONKONKOMA, NY: FEBRUARY 2, 1987 The young man was obviously distressed and experiencing great difficulty trying to verbalize his pain. He was 25 years old, darkly handsome and dying of AIDS. His parents knew neither that he had AIDS nor that he was a homosexual. And he had come to me, a Roman Catholic priest, for help. He was a man of faith who happened to be a homosexual. And I was struck by his obvious sincerity. We talked many hours... and I managed to pry open, with his help, a steamer trunk of past regrets — of relationships I had run away from because my training taught me that any relationship could become sexual. It also taught me to fear homosexual men, and so I dealt with them as nonpersons; I did the same with women.

Bobby once asked me why I always kidded him. He told me that he knew that I loved him and cared deeply about him, but he wondered why I always tried to have something funny to say. I had no answer. Instead we began talking about my past, and his, and how I developed the essentially defensive bantering device. In his pajamas, with tubes running into his body, Bobby became a healer for me. Gradually, I learned how to lean over his bed and kiss him goodbye without any trace of fear or suspicion of lust. Each time I left him I began to realize it might be a final leave-taking, and so I wanted him to know at least that I loved him very much.

Bobby helped me to realize that I was starving even as he lost more weight than he could possibly afford. I began to understand that old verity: if you deal with the dying, they will give you life.

PHILADELPHIA: JULY 27, 1987 "I was living with a man dying of AIDS, and I was pretty sick of myself. Thomas, my lover, and I would get invited to parties and then disinvited. We lost 99 percent of our friends to AIDS hysteria. In January I lost Thomas as well.

"Anne entered my life at a real hard time. She got me through some real rough times."

Anne is a 'buddy' to people with AIDS. In Philadelphia there are about 270 trained 'buddies' whose ages range from 18 to 77. "What 'buddies' do", Anne said, is "give of their hearts."

PRAYER: (stand)

Litany of Hope in the AIDS Crisis

Let us give thanks to God for all the signs of hope and healing present among us even amid the death and tragedy of AIDS.

For all that you have done for us in creation, for the beauty and wonder of the world, for our lives and for the human body; and for all you have given to us to enhance the quality of our lives; for our families, friends and neighbors; for beauty, love, music and art.

People: We give you thanks, dear God.

For increased appreciation of the lives and personalities and gifts of the people we know who have AIDS: for the new depths of our relationships with them; for the new awareness of ourselves that comes through those relationships; for the healing that we have already experienced.

People: We give you thanks, dear God.

For the miracles of modern medicine that are able to extend the lives of the sick, to give them comfort in their distress and provide hope for an eventual cure against the AIDS virus.

People: We give you thanks, dear God.

For the selfless giving, the courage, the compassion, and the tireless work of those who minister to people with AIDS and their families; for the work of physicians and nurses, medical researchers and scientists; for the work of counselors, priests and pastors; for the work of all agencies and individuals who serve with compassion.

People: We give you thanks, dear God.

Finally, for giving us the imagination and ability to envision a world without AIDS in the future; a world made more compassionate through our common suffering, a world made hopeful by our common triumph over this disease; and most especially we give you praise and glory for Christ's final victory over death and for our victory in Him.

People: We give you thanks, dear God, and praise your name for ever and ever.

BLESSING (Bishop)

DISMISSAL DEAN: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL

Hymn 473 (Stand) Lift High the Cross Crucifer

REFRAIN: Lift high the cross, the love of God proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred Name.

1. Led on their way by
this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in
conquering ranks combine.

REFRAIN

3. O Lord, once lifted
on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised,
draw the world to thee.

REFRAIN

2. Each new-born servant
of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the
seal of him who died.

REFRAIN

4. So shall our song of
triumph ever be:
praise to the Cruci-
fied for victory.

REFRAIN



Liturgical Leaders

List of Participants

The Rt. Rev. Allen L. Bartlett, Jr., Bishop of Pennsylvania **Presiding.**

Mr. James Wallow, Good Shepherd, Rosemont, Organist.

The Rev. Kevin Johnson, Episcopal Community Services, Master of Ceremonies.

PART I

Soloist

Mr. Erin Gooding
Philadelphia Opera Chorus.

Matthew 27:39-50

Mr. Bill Randall
We the People PWA/ARC, Philadelphia.

Reflection

Ms. Sara Webber
Integrity, Philadelphia.

Psalm 22:1-11

The Very Rev. Louis Temme
Trinity Memorial Church
Southwark Deanery

Litany of Awareness

Mr. C. Edward Geiger
Executive Director, Metropolitan Christian
Council of Philadelphia.
Written by the The Rev. Angus Davis,
Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

PART II

Romans 12:1-21 and
Sermon

The Rev. Paul Washington
Diocesan AIDS Committee

Litany of Healing

The Rev. Christine Holcomb
Chaplain, Graduate Hospital
Written by The Rev. Charles O. Moore
St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia

Laying on of Hands

The Rev. Robert Schiesler
St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia

PART III

Romans 8:31-39

Mr. Michael Ragland
We the People PWA/ARC, Philadelphia

Reflection

Mr. Joseph Gray
BEBASHI, Philadelphia

Litany of Hope

The Rev. James A Casciotti, S.J.
Old Saint Joseph's, Roman Catholic Church.
Written by the The Rev. Angus Davis,
Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square

Prayer Service Planning Group

The Rev. Kevin Johnson (Convener) Episcopal Community Services
The Rev. Angus Davis, Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square
The Rev. Charles Moore, St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia
The Rev. Virginia Nagel, All Soul's Church for the Deaf, Philadelphia

Other Special Assistants

Ms. Katharine Kriebel, poster art work.
Mr. Karl Miller, general arrangements.
Mr. Kevin C. Moore, typing and printing.
Ms. Jan Pierce, publicity consultant.
Mr. Terry Quirin, poster printing.
Ms. Ann Young, fund raising.

And the many other people who helped to make it possible for this AIDS Prayer Service.

STATEMENT ON HTLV-III/LAV ANTIBODY TEST (1/4/85)
(excerpt)

Irrespective of test results, we underscore the importance of all members of high-risk groups continuing to follow prevention guidelines that have been put forward by AIDS service organizations, including the adoption of safe sex practices. The declining rates of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men in many cities show the success of these efforts. Whether one has tested positive or negative, whether one has been exposed to the HTLV-III virus or not, safe sex practices may help to prevent either new or further exposure to the virus or the transmission of the virus to another party.

HOW YOU GET AIDS

The infection may occur when the body fluids (blood, semen, urine or feces) of an infected person enter deeply into the body of an uninfected person. Drug addicts using a common needle are injecting someone else's blood into their veins along with the drug. They are at risk for this reason.

Any sexual activity such as oral, anal or vaginal sex puts the uninfected person at risk. For this reason, contraceptives are encouraged for use in sexual activity to prevent the exchange of body fluids.

HOW YOU DO NOT GET AIDS

Symptoms take from six months to ten years to develop.

1. You do not get AIDS from breathing the same air as an infected person, and you do not get AIDS suddenly.
2. You do not get AIDS from touching or casually kissing an infected person.
3. You do not get AIDS by drinking or eating with the same utensils as an infected person. Families with AIDS patients remain uninfected after years of sharing glasses, dishes, etc.
4. You do not get AIDS from handshakes, doorknobs, or toilet seats.